लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास आरम्भ किए गए हैं । राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम भी सहकारी क्षेत्र में प्रसंस्करण इकाइयां और शीतागार की सुविधाएं स्थापित करने के लिए फल तथा सब्जी विपणन सोयायटियों को सहायता प्रदान कर रहा हैं । इसके अलावा,राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड अपने बिक्री केन्द्रों के माध्यम से उचित दरों पर सब्जियों तथा फल बेच रहा है,जिनमें सेब भी शामिल हैं । उत्पादकों तथा उपभोक्ताओं के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए,ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय विनियमित मण्डियों की स्थापना को बढ़ावा दे रहा हैं ।

CSS Officers Empanelled for Joint Secretary

*327. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of CSS officers who have been empanelled for appoint ment to the post of Joint Secretary for three years or more as of now;

(b) whether the policy guidelines of Government arc that CSS officers who have been empanelled for three years or more may be considered for mandatory posting; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken for mandatory posting of Officers referred to in para (a) above and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANAR-THANAN): (a) The number of officers of the Centra] Secretariat Service who have been for three years or more on the panel for appointment to the posts of Joint Secretary to Government is presently four.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing instructions provide that CSS officers having 2 years to superannuate, provided they are included in the Joint Secretaries' suitability list, may be considered for mandatory posting at Joint Secretary level cither against a regular vacancy where the officer is working or by in-situ promotion by personal upgradation in the same Ministry. None of the 4 officers referred to in the reply t6 part (a) above is covered under this policy.

Response to Prime Minister's Letters on Nuclear Tests

*328. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had written letters to the leaders of several countries on India's stand on nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the response of the countries to whom letters had been addressed; and

(c) whether these countries have agreed to engage in constructive dialogue with a view to achieving the objective of time-bound golbal nuclear disarmament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letters addressed by the Prime Minister to leaders of various countries were meant to explain the rationale behind our nuclear tests leading to a better appreciation of our security concerns.

(c) In recent weeks, a large number of NGOs, academics, public figures and experts in various countries have called for urgent and renewed attention to be paid to the objective of global nuclear disarmament. Eight-countries, namely Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovenia, South Africa have launched an initiative titled "Towards a nuclear-weapon free world: Need for a new agenda". India is the only nuclear weapon state to have responded to this initiative. India has also given a call for negotiations to start on a Nuclear